

Welcome to the
First Church in Oberlin,
United Church of Christ

Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

August 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

David Hill, Pastor

Thomas Bandy, Director of Music & Organist

Kathleen Bradley, Liturgist

www.firstchurchoberlin.org

No matter who you are or where you are on
life's journey, you are welcome here.



Welcome to Worship!

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this United Church of Christ congregation. We invite you to become a part of our community of faith, to grow spiritually, to encounter God's inclusive and effusive grace in worship and fellowship, and to work and witness for greater justice and peace in our world.

- Large-print bulletins and hearing-assist devices are available, ask an usher.
- If you are moved to express gratitude or appreciation during the service, please respond by saying, "Amen!"
- Please remember to silence your cell phones as you enter worship.
- Our Wi-Fi network has the name "FC Guests" and the password is "CGFinney".

Children in Worship

We strive to welcome children - and their occasional restlessness - in worship. Materials are in the hallway outside the worship space for children who would like a quiet activity during worship. Nursery care is available for young children if parents would enjoy some quiet time.

Please see an usher if you need directions or more information.

Children of kindergarten age or older are invited to join Storytime during the worship service. They will leave for Room 3 after the Front Row Moment.

Are you interested in receiving our electronic newsletter—"First Things First"? Please contact the church office and we will add you to our mailing list.

Miranda Schaum: office@firstchurchoberlin.org
David T. Hill: pastor@firstchurchoberlin.org

Building and Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, with additional appointments as needed.

Our staff will gladly make arrangements to meet with you at other times.

Please call (440) 775-1711 to schedule an appointment.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
August 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



Opening Music

From *Eight Pieces, Op. 83* (1910) - Max Bruch
III. *Andante con moto*

Mark Parish, clarinet; John Sanderson, cello; Andrew Pau, piano

Welcome

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 133, *The Inclusive Bible*)

One: See how good, how pleasant it is
for God's people to live together as one!

**All: It is like precious oil on Aaron's head
running down on his beard,
running down to the collar of his robes.**

One: It is like the dew of Mount Hermon,
falling on the hills of Zion.

**All: For that is where God bestows the blessing—
life that never ends.**

***Congregational Song #293**

Sweet, Sweet, Spirit

***Opening Prayer**

***The Peace**

One: May peace be with you

All: And also with you.

Front Row Moment

The Word in Music

From *Eight Pieces, Op. 83* (1910) - Max Bruch
I. *Andante*

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 45:1-15

One: A Word of God that is still speaking,

People: And we are still listening. Thanks be to God.

**The asterisk invites all who are able to rise in body and/or spirit*

Reflection

Prayers

From Eight Pieces, Op. 83 (1910) - Max Bruch
VIII. Moderato

During the musical offering you are invited to share joys and concerns via the prayer pad in your pew, FB chat, or email (prayers@firstchurchoberlin.org)

Lord's Prayer

You are invited to use whatever language for God best fits your understanding of God. Some options are provided in the prayer.

**Our Creator/Mother/Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy Kingdom/Kin-dom/Realm come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the Kingdom/Kin-dom/Realm,
the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Announcements

Offering

One: As we conclude our worship, what shall we offer in gratitude for God's love and care?

All: As followers of Jesus, we seek to minister to one another, our community, and the world. To this ministry we bring our time, talents, and other resources as we are able, asking God's blessing as we go out to love and serve.

***Congregational Song #495**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

***Blessing**

Closing Music

From Eight Pieces, Op. 83 (1910) - Max Bruch
VII. Allegro vivace, ma non troppo

You are welcome to remain for the Closing Music or to leave quietly for fellowship on the patio (weather permitting) or in Fellowship Hall.

Special Musical Guests Today: A local piano trio - Mark Parish, John Sanderson, and Andrew Pau - will be with us for worship today, featuring the clarinet, cello, and piano, respectively.

Are you interested in Creation Justice and our Environment? Join our next First Church FIRST GREEN TEAM meeting! New date: Wednesday, September 2, at 4 PM, Reading Room. See you there! Questions? Call Kathleen at (440) 503-0123.

New Great Grandparents: Bill and Robin Jindra are happy to announce to our First Church family that we have joined the Great Grandparent club! Warren Adam Harper was born June 12th to granddaughter and husband, Aimee and Justin Harper.

Summer Storytime Sign-up! Come get to know the church's wonderful kids - by reading a story to them during the sermon portion of worship this summer! Stories will be provided, or you can bring your own, and our wonderful childcare workers will be there to lend a hand. A sign-up sheet is in the gallery. Thanks in advance for taking the time to get to know the children of the church!

COFFEE HOUR THROUGH THE SUMMER We've been loving after-church coffee hours! Good fair trade coffee, packaged cookies or home made and great conversation. Simple is best. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the kitchen. If you want to sign-up but need to learn how to make coffee and set up, let Alana Kelley know and she can help you. It's easy peasy. Promise! OR if you want to help out by delivering 2 dozen homemade cookies or pastries

packed for the freezer in the kitchen, we will happily accept those donations!
Thank you in advance!

What's Cooking This Fall at First Church?

Our **Third Wednesday Night Suppers** are a beloved tradition, and we'd like your creative ideas to make this fall's lineup the best yet!

If you enjoy bringing people together over good food, join our monthly Zoom planning team!

- **Next Planning Meeting:** Tuesday, August 18 at 10:00 AM (via Zoom)
- **Our First Goal:** Planning the September 16 menu. Then we'll toss out some ideas for the suppers in October and November.

To get the Zoom link, contact Miranda Schaum in the church office.
(office@firstchurchoberlin.org)

Questions? Contact Linda at Irslocum@gmail.com or **(440) 935-0487**. Let's make something delicious together and keep the tradition going!



Donate from your smart phone

The First Church in Oberlin now offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's QR code reader or go to www.firstchurchoberlin.org and click "Donate Online."

Mission Moment - August 16, 2026

Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the UCC and author of today's Mission Moment

Bold Moves (08/16/2026)

Genesis 45:1-15

I recently heard a saying that if you hold tightly to grudges your hands are not free to catch the blessings.

Joseph, the dreamer in the Bible, had every right to hold a grudge. He was betrayed by his brothers and sold to a group of Ishmaelites who then brought him to Egypt.

The young boy could have allowed his circumstances to sour his spirit. But he didn't. Instead, Joseph grew up, rising to the position of prime minister to the Pharaoh. He was second-in-command of all of Egypt.

So, when a seven-year famine, in which Joseph had seen in one of his dreams, devastated his family's land of Caanan, he was now able to help his brothers who came seeking relief. At first, though, they didn't recognize Joseph as the brother they had sold. But as the story unfolds, the tears of realization and redemption flow freely among the broken siblings.

Joseph's story is not an easy one for us to embrace, especially when we prefer the heaviness of grudges to the lightness of forgiveness. But it is a story that reminds us that wrongs can be righted on the God path. In those times of feeling lost and wondering where in heaven's name is God, we must not let despair or even anger take hold.

I know this is easier said than done. Even as I write, I hesitate with each click of the keyboard because while my heart knows how gracious God is, my head is reciting a monologue of doubt. If my hands weren't typing, I am sure they would be found curled into a tight ball of frustration, hurt and anger.

It is not easy to believe that good can come out of something painful. But it can. Because God is our God of bold moves, and the boldest of moves was showing us that new life does emerge from the tomb.

Hope never dies. But holding on to that grudge is slowly doing its best to suffocate it. So put down this bulletin right now, unclench your hands, and catch that blessing.

Redemptive God, help us to let go of the grudges that we have been holding on to for far too long. May we realize they are serving no purpose in our lives. They are, in fact, robbing us of the life You want for us. With Your help, pry our clenched fists open now. We surrender all the hurt to you and wait patiently for the blessings. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

FIRST CHURCH EVENTS (August 16, 2026 - August 23, 2026)

Sun. (8/16)	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship Service	Meeting House
Mon. (8/17)	3:00 PM	Office Staff Meeting	Office
Tues. (8/18)	9:15 AM	OHC Tour	Meeting House
Tues. (8/18)	10:00 AM	Wednesday Night Supper Planning	JFO Room/Zoom
Tues. (8/18)	4:30 PM	Community Green Group	JFO Room
Wed. (8/19)	9:15 AM	OHC Tour	Meeting House
Wed. (8/19)	4:00 PM	City Fresh	Outside/Hallway
Thurs. (8/20)	9:45 AM	OHC Tour	Meeting House
Thurs. (8/20)	3:30 PM	Open and Affirming Meeting	JFO Room
Thurs. (8/20)	4:00 PM	Grief Support Group	Room 4
Thurs. (8/20)	6:00 PM	Line Dancing	Fellowship Hall
Fri. (8/21)	12:30 PM	Buckeye Harvest	JFO Room
Sat. (8/22)	1:30 PM	Baby Shower	Fellowship Hall
Sun. (8/23)	9:00 AM	Reunion	Fellowship Hall
Sun. (8/23)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
